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AUG 30 2022

**PRE-COMPLAINT DISPOSITION AGREEMENT**

This Agreement, made this 24th day of August, 2022, by and between Clarence Haskett, former Work Zone Instructor / Inspector, Office of Traffic and Safety, State Highway Administration, and Katherine P. Thompson, Staff Counsel to the State Ethics Commission (hereinafter "Staff Counsel").

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

The State Ethics Commission ("the Commission") is the executive agency of the State of Maryland established by Chapter 513, Acts 1979 for the purpose of enforcing the Maryland Public Ethics Law (General Provisions Article, Title 5, Annotated Code of Maryland), (hereinafter "the Ethics Law") including the provisions of Subtitle 5, Conflicts of Interest.

**AGREED STATEMENT OF FACTS**

1. Clarence Haskett was, at all times relevant to this matter, employed by the State Highway Administration ("SHA"), an executive agency of the State of Maryland, and an employee subject to the conflict of interest provisions of the Ethics Law.
2. Mr. Haskett was employed as the Work Zone Instructor / Inspector within the Office of Traffic and Safety for SHA. The Office of Traffic and Safety operates and maintains the electrical traffic control devices statewide, and provides maintenance assistance to the State Highway Districts for highway signs. Mr. Haskett's responsibilities included serving as the Work Zone Instructor for the entire state of Maryland, and involvement in work zone policy management.
3. Section 5-506(a)(1)(i) of the Ethics Law prohibits a State employee or official from intentionally using the prestige of his or her office for his or her own private gain or that of another. The Commission, through its published opinions, has interpreted the prestige provision to mean that State employees should not use any State resources, such as State computers, email accounts, or State time for activities unrelated to their State duties. (Op. No. 08.01).
4. In November 2021, SHA made a referral to the Commission for potential violations of the Ethics Law by Mr. Haskett for using State resources to conduct activities related to his privately owned business entities. The Commission placed this matter on the docket at its meeting on January 6, 2022, and directed Staff Counsel to conduct a preliminary inquiry. During the inquiry into this matter, SHA staff cooperated and provided assistance to Commission staff. Staff Counsel and other Commission staff spent numerous hours reviewing documents for this inquiry.
5. Mr. Haskett, in his capacity as Work Zone Instructor / Inspector for SHA, conducted activities related to his privately owned business entities, which were transmitted through his State-issued email account using his State computer, while on the job.

6. Mr. Haskett has been forthright in his cooperation of Staff Counsel's review of this matter.
7. Mr. Haskett is voluntarily entering into this Agreement to admit certain violations of the Ethics Law, to accept certain sanctions, and to resolve the matter now pending against him without the issuance of a complaint and a hearing before the Commission.
8. Mr. Haskett has been represented throughout these proceedings by counsel, Frank D. Boston, III, Esquire, as indicated by his signature on this Agreement.

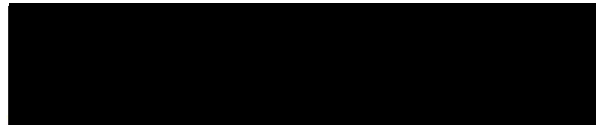
**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the agreed facts contained herein, and effective on the date of the Commission's acceptance of the terms of this Agreement, Clarence Haskett and Katherine P. Thompson, Staff Counsel, agree as follows:

- A. That Mr. Haskett admits that using State resources to conduct activities related to his privately owned business entities is a violation of the prohibition against using the prestige of one's office for their private gain or that of another contained in § 5-506(a)(1)(i) of the Ethics Law.
- B. This Agreement will serve as a reprimand to Mr. Haskett effective the date of the Commission's acceptance of this Agreement.
- C. Mr. Haskett waives any formal proceedings and hearing in this matter (if the Commission accepts this Agreement) and agrees that acceptance of this Agreement by the Commission constitutes a final action and finding of violation by the Commission.
- D. Mr. Haskett further agrees that this Agreement and materials related to this matter are not subject to the confidentiality provisions of the Ethics Law and will be public information unless otherwise protected.
- E. Upon execution of this Agreement by Mr. Haskett, Staff Counsel will recommend that the Commission suspend any further proceedings against Mr. Haskett.
- F. In the event the Commission declines to accept this Agreement, both Mr. Haskett and Staff Counsel are relieved of their respective obligations hereunder, and neither this Agreement, nor any admission it may contain, shall be admissible in any subsequent proceeding by the Commission.
- G. That Mr. Haskett and Staff Counsel are entering into this Agreement for the sole purpose of resolving the matters involved in the Commission's preliminary inquiry into this matter and for no other purpose.

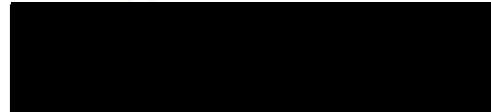
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, Clarence Haskett and Katherine P. Thompson, Staff Counsel, State Ethics Commission, have hereunto set their hands.



Katherine P. Thompson, Staff Counsel  
State Ethics Commission  
45 Calvert Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(410) 260-7770



Clarence Haskett



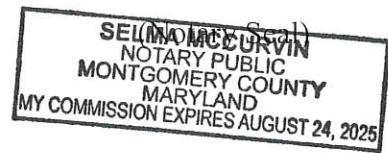
Frank D. Boston, III, Esquire  
Boston Plaut Law Offices  
2002 Clipper Park Road, Suite 108  
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

State of Maryland  
County of Baltimore City, to wit:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Clarence Haskett, who made oath in due form of law on this 24th day of August, 2022, that the matters and facts hereinabove set forth in this Agreement are true to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, that it is his voluntary act and that he executed this document for the purposes set forth herein.

[REDACTED]  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 8/24/2025



State of Maryland,  
County of Anne Arundel, to wit:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Katherine P. Thompson, Staff Counsel to the State Ethics Commission, who made oath on this 1st day of September, 2022, in due form of law that she executed this Agreement for the purposes therein contained.

[REDACTED]  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: June 20, 2025



Accepted by the Commission

[REDACTED]  
Janet E. McHugh, Chair  
for the Commission

Date: 9/15, 2022